

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0034] of the published patent application with the following amended paragraph:

[0034] FIG. 2 shows an application server 0104 configured according to this particular embodiment of the invention. The application server comprises a VFS layer 0104b that performs in the same manner as the VFS layer 0103b in the NAS gateway 0103 shown in FIG. 2. The application server further comprises a file system 0104d that supports the same format as the second file system 0103d of the NAS gateway. The application server is therefore capable of providing applications which run on the server and which can access the second file system 0103d that is contained in the secondary disk array 0107. More significantly, access to files contained in the second file system can be directly accessed by the application server and the client systems without having to make file requests to the NAS gateway 0103 shown in FIG. 2.